The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information as will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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If you want learning you must work for it.—J. G. Holland.

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ANTI-UNIONISTS DEPEND ON RHETORIC AND FLAG WAVING

John E. Edgerton, president of the National Association of Manufacturers, attacks the American Federation of Labor and President Green because of opposition to company "unions."

The anti-union manufacturer asks:

"When did Congress or the United States Patent Office grant the American Federation of Labor a monopoly upon the idea of collective bargaining or upon the method of collective bargaining?"

This is rhetoric, but not argument. It recalls anti-union platitudes on the "constitutional right to work."

The American Federation of Labor claims no monopoly on collective bargaining, but it does protest against men using this term when they mean something else.

There is but one kind of collective bargaining. Other systems may be given the same name, but organized labor refuses to be tricked.

It should not be forgotten that only recently company "union" advocates insisted on their so-called "open" shop—on the right of each worker to bargain individually.

This same element, as represented by Mr. Edgerton, now talks of "representatives of the workers" and management discussing plant problems. Why the change? Was it because the American Federation of Labor exposed the hypocrisy of these champions of "individual liberty?"

If the so-called "open" shop was the last word in Americanism, a few years ago, why is it now replaced by the company "union," that is just as fervently urged?

Anti-unionists can't be right both times. If individual bargaining was the correct procedure then, why not now?

Organized labor knows that the so-called "open" shop meant autocracy in industry, and the company "union" stands for the same thing.

There is only one kind of collective bargaining. Men are free to announce conditions under which they will labor and to select representatives to present their position, or they are dominated by the employer and his company-controlled "union."

To confuse the question by references to a monopoly granted by Congress or by the United States Patent Office is the same cheap rhetoric flag wavers used when they fooled workers with their "open" shop and "American plan."

Mr. Edgerton is on dangerous ground when he talks of monopoly. Like the resistless tide, organized labor is sweeping aside those who would control the lives of workers, and who have about exhausted their ingenuity in developing systems and plans that would make man subservient to man.

FOREIGN FORCES IN NICARAGUA SHOULD WITHDRAW, SAYS LABOR

Washington, July 30.—Immediate withdrawal of United States forces from Nicaragua and the termination of intervention in that country by any foreign nation are features of a resolution passed by the Pan-American Federation of Labor Congress.

The resolution, which was approved by the Nicaraguan delegation to the congress, is drawn along the same lines as President Green's recent protest to the State Department. Both declarations are temperate, but are unyielding in the principle that every nation be permitted to work out its own destiny.

The Pan-American resolution states, in part:

"Nicaragua and its people have been visited great suffering, both in loss of life, property and sovereignty, by reason of intervention of foreign authority, not due to any activities on the part of the workers of Nicaragua, but to capitalistic efforts, both native and foreign, to subjugate the Nicaraguan worker.

"The Pan-American Federation of Labor has time and again declared its attitude of respect for the complete sovereignty of all countries and against intervention by any foreign country, and has likewise sought to have every country guarantee to its workers the full and free right to organization in order that they may improve their conditions of life and work.

"The people of Nicaragua have been the unfortunate victims of a foreign intervention which has caused not only internal suffering, but internal difficulties, and to that extent the workers have been denied their opportunities of working out their conditions by and through their most elemental rights as citizens; therefore, be it resolved,

"That the executive council of the Pan-American Federation of Labor address the government of the United States, expressing regret for the events having occurred recently in Nicaragua; that it likewise address a respectful but emphatic petition to immediately withdraw the United States forces on land and sea and air in Nicaragua, and to terminate its intervention in the interest of that nation so that the people of Nicaragua may fully and freely work out their own problems, both for the present as well as in the coming election for a president of Nicaragua, and without any interference on the part of any foreign nation, it being the opinion of this congress that interference on the part of foreign nations will only make more difficult the solution of Nicaragua's problem.

"We deplore the tragic events as related in the daily press referring to the loss of lives said to have occurred on account of the intervention decreed against that free country, and in order to be helpful to the Nicaraguan Federation of Labor, and to the people of Nicaragua, the executive committee of the Pan-American Federation of Labor is authorized to lend all possible co-operation and assistance to the Nicaraguan Federation of Labor for the fulfillment of this resolution."

It is also declared that "the greatest possible publicity be given this resolution in the Western Continent, in order that the fullest knowledge may be obtained upon the situation prevailing in Nicaragua."

WRONGS IN PAN-AMERICA TOLD BY TRADE UNIONISTS

Washington, July 30.—The Pan-American Federation of Labor Congress, held in this city, afforded the first opportunity for citizens of countries south of the Rio Grande to tell this nation's capital of conditions in their respective countries.

Other groups of citizens from the south, who have visited Washington, have played their part in the exchange of international amenities, but the Pan-American workers departed from this practice and told a story of foreign and domestic exploitation, of denials of human rights, and of direct and indirect interventions. These wrongs have created resentments that bode ill for a continuance of good will and friendly relations between nations on this continent.

The strong, dignified opposition of the Congress to present Nicaraguan conditions, and to foreign and domestic exploitation of all forms in these countries is an effective answer to Communist propaganda in the southern republics. The reds would split the northern and southern organized workers in the hope that they will have a clear field below the Rio Grande.

The Congress made clear their hostility to the Communists when they declared: "We know full well the measures that have been taken by the Communist propaganda to undermine the trade unions of this hemisphere. But we declare this hemisphere is dedicated to liberty, to freedom, to justice and democracy, be they assailed by extremists and would-be destroyers who are on either side of us."

Newspapers in South and Central America gave much space to the proceedings of the Congress. That the workers of these countries gave close attention to the deliberations of the Pan-American meeting was indicated by long cables of felicitations that were daily received by delegates from unions in their respective countries.

The Congress re-elected William Green, chairman; Luis N. Morones, vice chairman, and Matthew Woll, treasurer. The offices of English and Spanish secretaries were abolished and Santiago Iglesias was chosen secretary.

WHY LABOR OPPOSES INJUNCTION

Striking laundry girls in Tacoma are enjoined against trespassing on the company's property, from interfering with ingress or egress from the laundries, and from abusing officers, employes or patrons.

There is a State law in Washington against each of these acts. Under these statutes, the accused is assumed to be innocent and is guaranteed a trial by jury.

With strikers, however, this procedure is set aside.

When a labor injunction is issued, the employer can claim violation and the accused is cited to appear before the court. She is not assumed to be innocent, as when no strike exists. She is not accorded a trial by jury.

She is called upon to show why she should not be punished.

In other words, she is assumed to be guilty. The judge who issued the injunction is sole arbiter. He is not guided by trial procedure. His prejudices and moods have full sway in this substitution of government by law for government by injunction.

Labor insists that where strikers are charged with violation of law they be accorded guarantees that are never denied the meanest criminal.

It is small satisfaction for them to be told they are jailed under "equity" proceedings.

BRITISH LORDS PASS ANTI-WORKERS' BILL

London, England, July 30.—The House of Lords gave the anti-trade union bill a second reading by a vote of 152 to 26. The bill was approved by the House of Commons by a vote of 354 to 189.

The workers were not without friends in the House of Lords, and some of the Liberal Conservatives were shocked at their opponents' plain language.

Lord Arnold lashed his colleagues when he said that some things were too unscrupulous even for the Conservative Party to do. The conflict which the government has provoked might end with the ending of the House of Lords.

Earl De La Warr asked how trade unions could feel safe from criminal prosecution when the cream of the Nation's legal profession in both Houses are unable to agree on the meaning of the bill. He said the proposal will tend to destroy general respect for the law—a national possession which ought to be carefully preserved. Trade unionists will feel, when the bill is law, that compliance will place them at the mercy of employers.

The speaker challenged the Tory Party to make its finance as clean and as public as that of the Labor Party.

Business Men Reject Soviets; Ivy Lee Makes "Dollar" Plea

Washington, July 30.—The United States Chamber of Commerce has rejected a plan to establish a bureau at Moscow "for the purpose of advising American business men and the Russian government regarding the development of business with the American people."

The suggestion was made by Ivy Lee, propagandist for big business. He was publicity agent for the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company during the miners' strike against this Rockefeller concern, 13 years ago.

In declining to accept the Lee plan, Lewis E. Pierson, president of the chamber, said:

"The executive committee of the national chamber instructs me to advise you that, in its opinion, nothing but propaganda harmful to our country would result from such a move.

"Your very full letter clearly states that all Russian trade, import and export, is not with individuals, as in countries where liberty prevails, but is under the absolute, autocratic control of a small communistic group. Since our government has wisely refused to recognize the Soviet regime, your suggestion amounts to asking the representatives of American business in effect to repudiate the position of the representatives of the American people.

"We resent the implication in your letter that for commercial gain American business recognize, even to this extent, the Soviet regime, which, by pronouncements of its leaders and by its deeds, has proved to be one of continuous tyranny, bad faith, confiscation of property and denial of individual rights.

"We do not believe that it is possible to bring the Russian people back to normal conditions through trade relations with the present under the complete control of such insincere, unrepentent and misguided rulers as those who took the lash to 9 years have degraded the character and lowered the living standards of 140 millions of people."

OKLAHOMA HALTS OIL OPERATIONS

Oklahoma City, July 30.—The State Corporation Commission has issued a temporary restraining order prohibiting operators from drilling wells in the newly opened Seminole field.

This order is unusual in American industry and is an attempt by the state to aid the operators in limiting production after they failed to agree between themselves.

The operators, led by the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey, pledged themselves to limit production and appointed an oil czar to enforce the agreement. Several operators ignored their promise, and the State Corporation Commission was called upon.

Washington, July 30.—The Federal Government has taken no action in the case of Oklahoma oil operators who have agreed to limit production. Spokesmen for the Department of Justice declare they are "watching" for violations of the anti-trust law, but are in sympathy with any effort to check over-production.

The oil operators are moving carefully lest a hostile public opinion be developed. They claim their agreement is temporary.

PROVIDENCE BLAMED FOR WORKERS' DEATHS

Detroit, July 30.—Organized labor is angry over a report by Chief Boiler Inspector McCabe on the recent explosion at the Briggs Manufacturing Company plant which resulted in the death of a score of workers.

The report states that spray booths for painting automobile bodies were improperly constructed, that the building was not sufficient and that many other things were wrong. Despite these acknowledgments, the report states:

"It is my opinion that this accident was an act of Providence and that the Briggs company was not guilty of negligence."

CANADIAN UNIONS TO MEET

Edmonton, Canada, July 30.—Officers of the Trade and Labor Congress of Canada have issued the call for the annual convention, to convene here Monday, August 22.

The Congress is composed of locals affiliated to A. F. of L. national and international unions. The purpose of the Congress is to secure legislation from Dominion and provincial parliaments that will benefit all workers in Canada.

STATE UNIONS TO MEET

Keene, N. H., July 30.—The annual convention of the New Hampshire Federation of Labor will meet in this city on Tuesday, September 27.

SCARCITY OF SERVANTS IS ANCIENT COMPLAINT

Washington, July 30.—"Scarcity of domestic servants" is an old cry, says the Monthly Labor Review, issued by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The cry is periodically raised, and at this time the immigration law is blamed, but the Monthly Review says:

"Conclusive evidence on this subject is not available, but the information accessible indicates that the difficulty complained of is due to persistent economic and social causes having little or no relation to immigration or immigration policies."

The bureau quotes records to show that women are unwilling to enter domestic service and that the problem is a perennial one and is wholly apart from immigration restrictions.

"During the decade just preceding the beginning of the World War in 1914," the bureau states, "immigration into the United States reached its maximum, in one year exceeding a million a year. Yet, in 1915, with this great mass of accumulated alien labor of all classes, the same complaints about the difficulties of securing efficient domestic servants were made."

CHAS. O'BRIEN ELECTED BY METAL WORKERS

Atlantic City, July 30.—Charles O'Brien of Cleveland was elected secretary-treasurer of the Sheet Metal Workers' International Association at the annual convention here. He succeeds William L. Sullivan, who declined to be a candidate.

SHIP OWNERS LOVE CHINESE LABOR, ATTACK ON SEAMEN'S LAW RENEWED

New York, July 30.—Voicing the views of certain shipping interests, both foreign and domestic, financial papers are making a desperate effort to revive opposition to the La Follette seamen's law.

This legislation is blamed for much of the ship owners' troubles, although this acknowledgment is made: "Vessel men who do come to Washington cannot create the unfortunate impression that they are after something for nothing."

The financial publications plead for an extension of the employment of Chinese and other Orientals, which is now the rule on many vessels flying the American flag.

"Our ships must be officered by Americans and manned by Americans, as far as it is possible, but we must recognize that the La Follette law now in the world will not attract American boys to the sea to perform certain classes of work which are necessary in vessel operation," it is said.

No reference is made to the fact that American boys will not do this work because they have to "bunk" with Chinese and must accept the standard of living of Chinese who are more interested in smuggling opium than in the few dollars a month they receive.

The revived opposition to the seamen's act recalls Albert D. Lasker's statement in 1922 before a Senate committee in which he withdraw all opposition to the LaFollette law. Mr. Lasker was chairman of the United States Shipping Board at the time. He was appointed by President Harding. On page 246 of the Congressional Record of November 25, 1922, Mr. Lasker is quoted:

"I want to take this occasion to say here that I think the seamen's law has been one of the most misrepresented acts of which I ever heard. I came down to Washington believing as most people in my part of the country do, if you repeal the seamen's act you would have a merchant marine. That is pure bunk.

"Mr. Senator) Bankhead—That is the reason I asked the question, because those who were undertaking to give reasons why we could not operate successfully with our foreign competitors based their assertions exclusively on the discrimination caused by the seamen's act.

"Mr. Lasker—I think they have gotten worn out on these representations."

SAFETY IN INDUSTRY POSSIBLE BY CAUTION

Middletown, Ohio, July 30.

MORE than one-half of the accidents and occupational diseases can be prevented by co-operation between employer and employed, declared the state convention of the Ohio Federation of Labor.

Carelessness of workers and of employers was condemned, and a demand for revision of the state's laws was made. The convention recommended that safety committees be set up in every plant, and that this subject be given wholehearted support by every affiliate of the federation.

The committee in charge of this question reported that where safety committees are in force, both unions and shops, "excellent results have been attained in curtailing accidents. We trust no delegate to this convention will consider his or her report to their local complete until the activities of this convention without dwelling at length on the necessity for safety in the industrial life of the state of Ohio."

GLASS BOTTLE BLOWERS ASK FOR HIGHER RATES

Philadelphia, July 30.—The convention of the Glass Bottle Blowers' Association instructed officials to present increased wage demands to employers.

Business conditions justify this increase, it was stated, even though the operation of the Volstead act has cut into the industry at least 40 per cent.

President James Maloney and Secretary Harry Jenkins were re-elected. William Gable of Los Angeles, and President Maloney will represent the association at the Los Angeles convention of the A. F. of L. Atlantic City was chosen as the 1929 convention city.

CAR STRIKE AVERTED

Chicago, July 30.—Street car employes and local traction companies will arbitrate wage differences. More than 90 per cent of the issues are in the hands of a receiver and under the jurisdiction of Federal Judge Wilkerson. This jurist issued the Daugherty injunction against shop men in their nation-wide strike.

RENEW UNION AGREEMENT

New York, July 30.—Raincoat workers and manufacturers have renewed their agreement. No changes are made in wage and hours, but four holidays with pay will be allowed.

WAGE ORDINANCE VOID, SAYS STATE HIGH COURT

Atlanta, July 30.—The Georgia Supreme Court has annulled an Atlanta city ordinance which fixed a standard wage to be paid by contractors engaged on municipal works. The ordinance was contested by the anti-union group in this city.

The court held the rates fixed "tended to encourage a monopoly and defeat competition, and it also tends to put another burden on the taxpayers of the city than free competition would place upon them."

Judge James K. Hines dissented from the majority opinion. He held that the City Council has authority to pass the ordinance.

The ordinance provided for these rates, which the court said tended toward monopoly and a burden to taxpayers:

Blacksmiths, 90 cents an hour; carpenters, 80 cents; bricklayers, $1.40; plumbers, $1.25; plasterers, $1.25; steam fitters, $1.25; electrical workers, $1; lathers, $1; sheet metal workers, 80 cents; stone cutters, $1.12; painters, 80 cents.

GUNS FOR COAL OWNERS TO LOWER LABOR'S WAGE

Columbus, Ohio, July 30.—President Lee Hall of the Ohio district, United Mine Workers, together with other officials, have been enjoined from picketing the plant of the Luhrig Collieries Company at Luhrig.

The court order is part of the coal owners' campaign to open mines with non-union labor. They have not offered the 1917 scale or $5 a day, but the miners are asked to accept reductions from 25 cents to $1 a day less than $7.

From Steubenville come reports that officials of the Ross Valley and Goodyear Rubber Company mines admit ordering machine guns and ammunition. The miners are willing to contract with owners, but the latter refuse unless the meeting is based on an acceptance of lower rates.

SAYS CHINA MUST WIN JUSTICE BY THE SWORD

East Northfield, Mass., July 30.—China must depend upon the sword to secure justice from Western nations, Rev. Dr. Charles E. Jefferson of New York told delegates to the Northfield Foreign Missionary Conference here.

Dr. Jefferson has returned from a 12-months' visit to China. He said that the Great Powers, and not Russia, are responsible for the Chinese revolution. Expressing abhorrence for war and the arming of nations, the speaker said that, judging from the past history of Oriental and Western nations, "I'm afraid that to get justice China must arm. You know that Japan, when she was unarmed, was treated far differently than now."

COMMUNIST CHIEF HOISTS WHITE FLAG

New York, July 30.—Ben Gold, Communist leader, is attempting to get back into the Fur Workers' Union. He and his crew all but smashed the union, which was rescued by trade unionists and a special A. F. of L. committee. Gold was expelled and he induced a public official to intercede for him.

The unionists told the official there is no desire to deprive any man of the right to earn a living, but the union is determined there will not be a repetition of the Communist reign.

PRINTERS RAISE WAGES

Cincinnati, July 30.—Printers employed on daily newspapers secured a $2.50 and a $2.99 weekly increase through arbitration.

BANKERS' CHIEF INJURED

Madison, W. Va., July 30.—Percy Tetlow, president of the United Mine Workers, was seriously injured in an automobile accident, near here. A faulty steering gear caused the machine to capsize. Tetlow's right arm was broken in three places.

RAISE DEATH BENEFIT

Atlantic City, July 30.—The death benefit to widows of deceased members has been raised from $200 to $500 by the annual convention of the Sheet Metal Workers' International Association.

POST OFFICE CAN'T OPERATE ON "SOUND BUSINESS" BASIS

Washington, July 30.—Congressman Clyde Kelly will renew his fight in the next Congress to have the Post Office Department placed on a basis of service to the people.

The department is now called a service institution when free mailing privileges are to be extended, and a business institution when postal employes ask for wage increases.

"If we adopt the policy that there must be a surplus in the Post Office Department's annual report, that all services which lose money should be eliminated," said Congressman Kelly.

"That would mean the elimination of the entire rural delivery service, since it has been a losing venture from the beginning. In fact, many of the special services which are of the utmost value to the people must go overboard under this test of profit making.

"No one would advocate the withdrawal of such services. The welfare of the nation demands their retention and they will be retained. But they cost more than they bring into the department's treasury; who shall pay this deficit?

"Those who make a fetish of a postal surplus reply that postal rates should be fixed at a point where revenues will cover all such losses. That means that the charge for the various classes of mail matter must be higher than warranted by the actual cost of the service rendered.

"The Post Office Department's rightful policy is service. Its dividends are paid in enlightenment and intelligence; its surplus is recorded on the books of better citizenship; its balance sheet shows a huge credit to benefits over expenditures.

"Instead of compressing service into the hard and fast limits of revenues, let us rather learn the demands of a complete, all-inclusive service to the American people, provide American standards in compensation and working conditions for every employe, and formulate postal rates on the basis of maximum volume and lowest unit costs.

"Then the United States Postal Service will carry out its true mission."

WANT POPULAR VOTE ON HYDRO-ELECTRIC

Washington, July 30.—The National Popular Government League asks the Federal Power Commission to hold a popular referendum in the District of Columbia on the question of developing hydro-electric power in the Potomac River. Former United States Senator Owen of Oklahoma is president of the league.

Under the Federal power act preference is given to municipalities and state subdivisions as against private corporations in the filing of preliminary permits and in the granting of leases for the development of hydro-electric power.

"Since the people of the District of Columbia have no organized corporate body and can only express themselves through their federations of labor and associations," the league states, "we urge upon your commission the necessity of securing a referendum upon this question before action is taken by your commission.

"The water natural property is clearly the greatest asset in the control of federal agencies for the nation's capital and its residents."

CONVICT LABOR FOE WOULD OUTLAW DEBTS

Atlanta, July 30.—Convict-labor products would be barred from this state if the General Assembly accepts a bill introduced by Representative Luther Still.

This member of organized labor would exempt from legal collection all manufactures of prison-made goods. This would make it impossible for distributors of prison-made goods to collect payment.

CAR STRIKE AVERTED; WORKERS MAKE GAINS

New York, July 30.—A tie-up of this city's traction systems has been averted by the companies' agreement to reinstate employes who were discharged for joining the legitimate street car men's union.

The companies also agree to desist from this victimization policy, but insist that unionization must not interfere with their company "union." The street car men reply that this question will solve itself if they are not forced to sign "yellow dog" contracts.

The settlement was worked out by Mayor Walker. The President of the Interborough Rapid Transit Company bluffed up to the last minute before signing concessions. Strikebreakers were rushed to this city and every provision was made to meet the strike, but the companies changed their plans. Faced by a walk-out of 25,000 workers, the companies grudgingly changed their tactics.

These workers belong to a company "union." Last year they staged an independent strike and secured small concessions. Since then the Amalgamated Association of Electric and Street Car Employes has been quietly organizing. To block this movement the Interborough circulated "yellow dog" contracts among employes. These have been signed even by secret members of the Amalgamated and the company has been relying on an old injunction and a decision by the United States Supreme Court in the Hitchman case to enforce these contracts. President Hedley recently warned President Green of the A. F. of L. that he was liable for damage if he aided the Amalgamated in any way. The trade unionist forwarded the traction magnate a blunt reply that threats would not deter him from exercising his constitutional rights.

SACCO-VANZETTI PLEA PASSED BY PAN-AMERICAN

Washington, July 30.—An appeal to the governor of Massachusetts to exercise clemency in behalf of Sacco and Vanzetti was passed by the Pan-American Federation of Labor congress.

"The workers of all Pan-America desire that the ends of justice be served and that the life of no person be placed in jeopardy when there is so much doubt regarding guilt of the offense charged in this case," the resolution states.

LABOR LIEN IS FIRST

Bend, Ore., July 30.—Judge T. E. J. Duffy has ruled that claims of workers for wages must be given precedence over other claims.

Dealers in road building material endeavored to have the State Highway Commission place them on an equality with labor, and several attempts have been made to amend the state mechanics' lien law so material men will be included.